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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 NEA-10 /081 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5638
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PL, US
SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS DISCUSSES PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER

REF: WARSAW 7947

1. SUMMARY. THE WARSAW PRESS IN MODERATE COVERAGE DURING THE DECEMBER 11-17 PERIOD, EXPRESSED CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, WHILE WITHOLDING FINAL JUGMENT. ARTICLES DEALING WITH AMERICAN UNEMPLOYMENT, THE B-1, AND THE PANAMA CANAL EMPHASIZED DIFFICULTIES FACING HIM. COVERAGE ON DECEMBER 17 OF CARTER APPOINTMENTS DELAYED ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZBIGNIEW BRZESINSKI'S SELECTION AS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO ARTICLES, "THE ENIGMA BECOMES CLEAR" BY MACIEJ SLOT-WINSKI IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY (DECEMBER 11-12), AND "RIDDLES AND
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TRUTHS" BY MAX BEREZOWSKI IN TRYBUNA LUDU (DECEMBER 13), DESCRIBE THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AS INTELLIGENT AND MODERATE, BUT UNTESTED AND THEREFORE UNPREDICTABLE. SLOTWINSKI BEGINS BY DESCRIBING CARTER'S INAUGURAL PLANS, WHICH APPEAR TO BRING HIM CLOSE TO THE AVERAGE AMERICAN. SLOTWINSKI SAYS CARTER IS "INTELLECTUALLY MORE LIVERLY," "FASTER-REACTING" AND "MORE

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DARING" THAN FORD. HE CONTINUES THAT CARTER IS AMBITIOUS, SELF-ASSURED, AND STUBBORN -- ONE OF A VANISHING AMERICAN GENERATION OF "SELF-MADE MEN." SLOTWINSKI DESCRIBES THESE CHARACTERISTICS AS POTENTIALLY ADVANTAGEIOUS FOR A PRESIDENT, BUT ALSO POTENTIALLY DESTRUCTIVE IN TERMS OF CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS. CARTER DOES NOT PLAN "FUNDAMENTAL AND RADICAL CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT", ACCORDING TO SLOTWINSKI, BUT HE WILL PROPOSE GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, WHICH IS LIEKLY TO MEET WITH OPPOSITION, AS IT DID IN GEORGIA. SLOTWINSKI WRITES, "THE NEW PRESIDENT LISTENS TO AND UNDERSTANDS HIS ADVISORS. HE LOOKS BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT FOR SUGGESTIONS, AMONG CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS. THE QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER HE CAN FORMULATE A LASTING, WELL-DEFINED POLITCIAL PROGRAM. AND, LET US HOPE, A CONSTRUCTIVE ONE."

3. BEREZOWSKI POSES THE SAME QUESTION IN AMORE SPECIFIC FASHION. HE LISTS THE ECONOMY, RACE, ENERGY, PUBLIC TRANSPORT, CRIME, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE B-1 AS ISSUES CARTER MUST FACE IMMEDIATELY UPON TAKING OFFICE. EVEN CARTER'S MODEST GOAL OF REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT BY 1.5 PER CENT A YEAR WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE "HOPES OF THE VOTERS" AND THE "DEMANDS OF CORPORATIONS." THE 6 PER CENT STEEL PRICE RISE DOES NOT AUGUR WELL, ACCORDING TO BEREZOWSKI. SIMILARLY, THE RESULTS OF A CARTER "TANGLE" WITH THE BUREAUCRACY AND HIS FIRST ENCOUNTERS WITH CONGRESS REMAIN TO BE SEEN. BEREZOWSKI NOTES WITH MORE OPTIMISM THAT CARTER DELCARED HE WOULD BE A "PRESIDENT OF INITIATIVE" ON FOREIGN POLICY, AND HE REPEATS THE IMPORTANCE CARTER ATTACHES TO A SALT II DECISION AND TO RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

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4. EDITORIALS REFLECT SOME UNCERTAINITY ABOUT CARTER'S ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES HE FACES. MACIEJ SLOTWINSKI IN A ZYCIE WARSZAWY EDITORIAL (DECEMBER 11-12) ENTITLED "UNEMPLOYMENT -- USA'S TIME BOMB" PLAYS CARTER'S MODEST BUT WISHFUL PLANS TO REDUCE JOBLESSNESS AGAINST THE SORDID PICTURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AS A "WAY OF LIFE" IN AMERICA. KAROL SZYDZIELORZ DECLARES THAT CARTER'S DECISION ON THE B-1 WILL BE THE "TOUCHSTONE OF THE NEW PRESIDENT'S INTENTIONS." HE DEPICTS BIG BUSINESS, THE PENTAGON, AND CARTER ADVISOR LAWRENCE KLEIN AS COMMONLY UNITED IN SUPPORT OF THE "FLYING WHITE ELEPHANT." ANNA QWASECKA WARNS ON DECEMBER 16 IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE SOONER THE BETTER" THAT WITHOUT A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY, CARTER AND VANCE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE LATING AMERICAN POLICY.

5. IN ADDITION TO FEATURES AND EDITORIALS, THE POLISH PRESS HAS STEADILY REPORTED CARTER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APPOINT-

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MENTS. HOWEVER, IT DELAYED FOR A DAY REPORTING ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI'S APPOINTMENT AS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR. TRYBUNA LUDU (DECEMBER 18-19) SAID THAT BRZEZINSKI WOULD ASSUME THE POSITION FIRST HELD BY KISSINGER. LIKE KISSINGER, TRYBUNA LUDU NOTED, BRZEZINSKI WAS A NATURALIZED AMERICAN. ZYCIE WARSZAWY CORRESPONDENT MACIEJ SLOTWINSKI QUOTED BRZEZINSKI'S SUPPORT FOR GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ("CARTER COMPLETES HIS GOVERNMENT," ZYCIE WARSZAWY DECEMBER 18-19). HE NOTED THAT BRZEZINSKI WAS THE SON OF A "PRE-WAR POLISH DIPLOMAT."
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